

# North Cross Spirit

... telling the news of North Cross Church

April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010

...coming up in Worship...

**New Sermon Series:**  
**The Christian Philosophy of**  
**Conventional Wisdom**

**“If I had asked people what they wanted they would have said faster horses.” — Henry Ford**

**Consider Acts 17:16-33**

## **Join adults in Sunday study: 9:45 a.m.**

You're invited to share in study and fellowship with these classes this Sunday:

### **Wesleyan Class:** Room 215

Lesson: “*Inclusion in Community*” Jan Braker

### **Good News:** Room 206

Lesson: “*The Bible*” Jim Funk

### **Friendship:** Room 202

Lesson: “*Inclusion in Community*”  
Marj Strong

### **Inquirer's:** Fellowship Hall

Lesson: “*Using a Study Bible*” Bill Chastain

### **FaithWorks:** Room 207

Lesson: “*Mission Trip to Jamaica*”  
Barb Bennett

### **Pathfinders:** Room 200

Lesson: “*Methodist Beliefs: We Believe in the Forgiveness of Sins*” Mary Lou Stewart

### **Contemporary Conversations:** Lounge

Lesson: “*Harvest Midwest: Non-Profit Food Donation Program*” James Harris

## **BUILDING on our PAST** **while CHARTING our FUTURE**

### **The Alpha Course**

The Alpha Course began in the 1980's as an educational program of Holy Trinity Brompton, London, England. Some tweaking was done in the early '90's by Nicky Gumbel, one of the Rectors at the church. It became, not only an educational program, but a way in which non-church people (sometimes referred to as “missing persons”) could be invited to explore the basics of the Christian faith in a casual, fun-filled atmosphere.

In 2004, some informational meetings were held to see if North Cross members would be interested in starting the course. A small group of persons attended meetings at The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection (Leawood, KS) and Christ Episcopal Church (Overland Park, KS). In response to those meetings, a group of about 10 persons from North Cross enrolled in the eleven week course offered by Christ Episcopal Church - so they could see first-hand, just what this course was like

In 2005 a group of people formed the first Alpha Team at North Cross and entered into a “pilot program” of Alpha; in the Fall of 2005, we launched our 2<sup>nd</sup> Alpha Course. Along with the initial offering, from 2005 until 2007, we had seven Alpha Courses. People from North Cross as well as guests (friends, neighbors, work associates) participated; in all, 192 persons went through the course. Many lives were dramatically changed by the Lord as a result of the course - a number of persons moved from a “head” relationship with God to a “heart” relationship.

We are involved with the course once again. Twenty-seven persons have just completed the course - a number of them are either not members of North Cross or have been attending for a short time.

The Alpha Course: a way of talking about our faith with one another, inviting new people to join us—and having fun in the process. Our hope is that God would do a great work in people's lives through Alpha.

*Note: The Alpha Course is now running in 163 countries with 13 million people having taken the course. Virtually every Christian denomination has offered Alpha in some form.*

**60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration - June 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Transformed by Christ's love to make disciples and serve others.**

## You are invited to...

- ◆ **...A Spring Concert for the Maple Woods Community College Choir** on Friday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010 at 7 p.m. at North Cross UMC. There will be no charge for attendance. For more information, please contact Nicole Murray at 816.407.1297.
- ◆ **...A Chris Cakes Pancake Breakfast**, hosted by Girl Scout Troop 1873, on April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at North Cross. Tickets are available at the door. Adults: \$6; Children 10 and under: \$5. Breakfast will be served from 8 a.m. until 11 a.m. Proceeds will benefit Brownie Troop No. 1873. If you have questions, please call Julie Baker at 816.454.1418, or e-mail [jbaker@briarcliffmed.com](mailto:jbaker@briarcliffmed.com).
- ◆ **...Alan Baker's 4th Annual 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday Big Band Bash** The family of Alan Baker invites you to attend his birthday celebration dance on May 1<sup>st</sup>. The Friendship Class will be holding a potluck dinner at 5 p.m. Bring a yummy dish to share and come eat with them. The dance will be start at 6 p.m. and will conclude at 8 p.m. The potluck and dance will take place in Fellowship Hall. Family and friends are all welcome. They request no presents - only the presence of your company.



## Thank You!

Trustees would like to thank those who helped clear the west end of the parking lot: Bryce Strong, Mel Strong, Carl West, Bill Goucher, Kathy Baharaeen, George Greer, Robert Lynch, Henry Linch, Jerry Crews, Charles Weems, Kyle Whiston, Fred Schaefer, Dale Dennis, Ray Hughes, Tommy Stehle, Helen Foster, Steve Sullivan and Keith Jackson. Also thanks go to Marj Strong, Barb Bennett, Autumn Stehle, Nancy West, LaMarylis Cotten and Patsy Schmutz for their cleaning in the kitchen, Fellowship Hall and Narthex..

## Church Conference date set

We have received official authorization from our District Superintendent, Reverend Yolanda Villa, to convene a special session of the North Cross UMC Church Conference on **Thursday, April 29, 2010, at 7:00 p.m.** at which Rev. Villa will preside.

**The purpose of this Church Conference is to vote to install a new geothermal heating and cooling system and to do various upgrades, such as window replacements and parking lot repairs.**

The Church Conference will be held in the Sanctuary. At this Church Conference the Building Committee will present a detailed list of what we plan to do, the contractors the Building Committee recommends for the work, updated estimates of cost, and our financial plan. We expect this to be the final Church Conference before construction begins this summer. (2008 Book of Discipline, paragraph 2543.7 and 2543.8)

This is an open meeting, but the voting members are all "professing (full) members" of North Cross UMC present at the meeting. (2008 Book of Discipline, paragraph 248)

## North Cross Job Club update

We have two more people seeking employment. One person is looking for a position as a business analyst or related type of work. She really enjoys just helping others.

The other person has a degree in accounting and a minor in mathematics. Her most current position was in accounts payable and tax preparation.

If you have any ideas for employment leads for these people, or any job leads in general, please drop them off at the church office to my attention, or e-mail [slindsay48@yahoo.com](mailto:slindsay48@yahoo.com) with the information. Thank you for all of your help, and please keep the job leads coming!

*Steve Lindsay*  
Job Club Facilitator

Mark your calendars to come hear Crestview English Language Learner teacher, Kent Yocum, speak with the combined Sunday School classes on Sunday, May 16th. Kent will explain the English Language Learner program, as well as inform us about the new Crestview Community Gardens project, toward which North Cross contributed funds.



## From Den's Pen:

When you were young, did you ever learn that thing you do with clasped hands? You know, "Here is the church"; then you pointed your fingers, "Here is the steeple"; then, while the fingers were locked, you turned your hands over, "Open the doors and see all the people."

What they didn't tell us when we were younger was: *the people are the church!* The other was just the building. A group called the A capella Vocal Band did a song, one of the lines of which said, "You can't go to church 'cause the church is YOU!"

Pastoral care is something that the pastors do. Right? Not necessarily. In the early church, when the need arose, they selected seven "servants" (deacons) to work in the area of food distribution so the leaders of the church could focus on sharing the word of God. In seminary, we learned that at times, because we preach or teach before the congregation, we can become the "representative of God" for those in our charge.

Just this week, I witnessed the power of "the church." Those who came to respond to the death of Kenny Bell were actually ministering to the family and giving "pastoral care." When I went to see Beverly Martin, who had a heart procedure at North Kansas City Hospital, I caught her coming out of recovery and rode the elevator with her up to her room. The next day, when I returned, the family members there said that Beverly's "Cursillo prayer group" had been there to look after her that night. "Pastoral care" was being performed by the members of the church. . .and they were truly being the "body of Christ."

So, if you get a "holy hunch" about someone who could use a visit, you might take that as a word from the Lord that YOU might be the best one to minister to them. If you pray for the Holy Spirit to guide and direct your efforts, you will do great things.

Please, join with your pastors in doing "pastoral care." You will be blessed and you will be a blessing to others in the process. Make it a good week!

## Person to person:

### CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

**Hospitalized:** John Zigeler, KU Med; Jane Wright, Elizabeth Davis, NKC

**Menu for April 28<sup>th</sup>:** *Leftover Surprise* - Please note that May 12<sup>th</sup> will be the last Wednesday night dinner until September.

- On Sundays, a written copy of the sermon is available in the Office. If a hearing device is needed, please ask one of the Ushers. A CD copy of a particular sermon can be ordered through the Office.
- May/June issues of The Upper Room devotional booklets are available in the wall rack by the church office. \$1.00 per copy.
- Platte Woods UMC invites their connection churches to help pack 285,000 meals for Haiti on Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. Contact Patsy at 452.2939 if you would like to volunteer with her from 9:00 a.m. to Noon .
- Ailene Knight turns 90 on April 26<sup>th</sup>. Her address is 1601 S. Fort Ave. Apt. 110, Springfield, Mo. 65807

**Publication Deadline: Wednesday at noon**  
**Spirit Editor: Mary Alice Morrissey**

**Church Office: 816.452.2939**

**Fax Number: 816.453.4353**

**Send email to [mamorrissey@northcrossumc.org](mailto:mamorrissey@northcrossumc.org)**

**Visit our website at [www.northcrossumc.org](http://www.northcrossumc.org)**

North Cross United Methodist Church  
1321 N.E. Vivion Road  
Kansas City, Missouri 64118

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